

Message Text

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64/62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07 PM-07 AID-05

DRC-01 /096 W

----- 122268

R 031700Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5214

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3874

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - OMISSION PARA NBRED FOUR

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO CIA CONTROVERSY

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT ORGAN NOVEDADES AND OPPOSITION
LA PRENSA FINALLY WOKE UP TO CIA CONTROVERSY TAKING DIFFERENT
SIDES ON DEBATE. NO ACCUSATIONS, HOWEVERN OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN
NICARAGUA. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT NOVEDADES AND OPPOSITON LA PRENSA
FINALLY CHIMED IN ON CIA CONTROVERSY AFTER PROLONGED PERIOD OF
EXCLUSIVELY WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE. ON SEPTEMBER 27, LA PRENSA
CAME DOWN HARD ON THE ISSUE CARRYING THREE COMMENTARIES, ALL
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OF WHICH REFERRED TO TIME MAGAZINE'S OCTOBER 1 COVER STORY.

ALL THREE BLASTED US INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CONDEMNED US SUPPORT OF "DICTATORIAL" SOMOZA REGIME. CRITICISM OF USG FOREIGN POLICY IN LA PRENSA, ESPECIALLY IN CONTEXT OF EMBASSY RELATIONS WITH GON, IS CERTAINLY NOT UNIQUE, BUT HARSHNESS OF EDITORIALS WAS NOTABLE.

3. LEAD EDITORIAL BY LA PRENSA DIRECTOR PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO TOOK ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ISSUE CRITICIZING HIM FOR DEFENDING POLICY IN WHICH US, "WITHOUT REGARD TO DEMOCRACY OR INTERNATIONAL LAW PURSUES ONLY ITS OWN INTERESTS WHETHER BY TOPPLING A CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME OR BY PROLONGING IN POWER A CORRUPT AND TYRANNICAL REGIME." SIMILAR QUOTE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS ATTACKED ON SAME GROUNDS. CHAMORRO ALSO INTERPRETS US SUPPORT OF SOMOZAS AS PAY-OFF FOR GON COMPLICITY IN US CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BAY OF PIGS OPERATION. SECOND COMMENTARY BY FORMER CENTRAL BANK CHIEF, FRANCISCO LAINEZ, WARNS NICARAGUANS WHO ARE IN SEARCH OF NATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS AGAINST THE "CREOLE SERVANTS" WHO RECEIVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM THE UNITED STATES. "TO COMBAT SUCH INTERVENTION," SAYS LAINEZ, "IS TO BE AUTHENTICALLY NICARAGUAN."

4. WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE LA PRENSA EDITORIALS, SEPTEMBER 30 NOVEDADES RUSHED TO THE DEFENSE OF CIA INTERVENTION IN CHILE WITH COLUMN DEPLORING SENATE INVESTIGATION OF CIA ACTIVITIES. ARTICLE STATED THAT THE SENATORS IN MOUNTING THEIR "SHOW" SUMMONING HENRY KISSINGER WERE "ACTING LIKE ENEMY AGENTS", AND LAMENTED THE "FLAWS IN US SYSTEM" WHICH PERMIT SUCH A THING TO HAPPEN. IT ADDED THAT "IF SECRETARY KISSINGER AS CHIEF OF A GROUP OF 40 ORDERED ASSISTANCE TO ANTI-ALLENDE FORCES, HE WAS ONLY BALANCING THE SITUATION SINCE ALLENDE HAD THE FINANCIAL AID, ARMS AND SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET BLOC."

5. COMMENT: AS THE ABOVE COMMENTARIES INDICATE, CIA AS INTERVENTIONIST FORCE PER SE HAS NEVER BEEN ACCORDED A MAJOR PLACE IN NICARAGUA IN THE NATIONALIST OR LEFTIST DEMONOLOGY, TAKING A BACK SEAT TO CHARGES OF MORE OVERT KINDS OF INTERVENTION. DESPITE THREE-PRONGED ATTACK BY LA PRENSA, PUBLISHER CHAMORRO CLAIMS IT WAS "MERE COINCIDENCE" AND DENIES REPORTS THAT LA PRENSA WILL INCREASINGLY RESORT TO NATIONALIST ANTI-US APPROACH AS WAY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GETTING AT SOMOZA REGIME.

6. NOVEDADES COMMENT -- MINUS CANT ABOUT "US SYSTEM" -- PROBABLY ACCURATELY REFLECTS SENTIMENT OF LOCAL POWER ESTABLISHMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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